



April 8, 2026

To: Chair Hoffman and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee

Re: Opposition to SF 4728

The Minnesota Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities is a statewide organization of self-advocates, providers, and disability advocacy organizations working to improve the lives of Minnesotans with Disabilities. Tens of thousands of Minnesotans with disabilities rely on long term care Medical Assistance (MA) services to thrive in their community, in particular Disability Waiver services that help ensure such individuals can continue to live in and contribute to the larger community.

We write to oppose SF 4728 because it proposes cutting eligibility for CADI and BI waivers from various subsets of our population that rely on these services. We were dismayed to see this holdover proposal from last year revived in the Governor's 2026 budget recommendations because it will hurt thousands of Minnesotans who are at risk of homelessness.

More specifically, this bill cuts eligibility for 4 of the possible 7 categories of eligibility for these waivers. While all four of these categories of eligibility are important, the most crucial category that would be cut by this proposal is:

- Individuals who currently live alone, will live alone, or will be homeless without their current housing; and
- Who meet one of the following:
 - at risk of falling with fracture;
 - at risk of maltreatment or self-neglect; or
 - has a sensory impairment substantially impacting their ability to live without services.

The people affected are not optional program participants. They are seniors and individuals with disabilities for whom relatively modest supports are the difference between stable community living and homelessness, institutionalization, or serious injury.



Removing their eligibility will:

- Increase the risk of homelessness and nursing-home placement for people who have already been identified as vulnerable due to falls, neglect risk, or severe sensory impairment.
- Worsen outcomes at a time when other supportive housing and community services are being cut, creating gaps that will leave people to “fall through the cracks.”
- Disproportionately harm low-income people, older adults, and people with disabilities who lack family supports.

Although the budget may reflect a modest savings of about 42.6 million dollars in 2028-2029¹, the costs to our system will undoubtedly be much greater. It will shift costs to emergency systems, hospitals, shelters, and long-term care settings - often far more expensive than the community supports provided through waivers.

Finally, this bill would exacerbate Olmstead discrimination by favoring more institutionalized models of care over more integrated community settings. Specifically, this bill would leave all 7 categories in place for individuals seeking to qualify for MA in a nursing home, meaning individuals who will likely be kicked off their waiver at risk of homelessness may eventually be admitted to a more restrictive nursing home to get those same services – at a higher cost to the state.

This short-sighted policy is bad for individuals, community providers, and the long-term health of our budget.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

KiloMarie Granada and Danielle Indovino Cawley

MNCCD Policy Committee Co-Chairs

¹ Minnesota Management and Budget, *2026 Governor's Supplemental Budget Recommendations: All Funds by Agency* (St. Paul: March 17, 2026), [Page 16], [<https://mn.gov/mmb-stat/documents/budget/operating-budget/gov-rec/mar26/gov26-budget-agency-item.pdf>].